

Special Duty allowance for employees of DD/AIR in NER

2440. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of Doordarshan and AIR of North-East Region are demanding Special Duty Allowance (SDA);

(b) whether it is a fact that even employees who have all-India Transfer liability and selected through all-India basis are denied SDA as they belong to the region;

(c) whether Government do not feel that this is a discriminatory attitude when a section of the same category staff doing the same duty but belonging to outside the region are getting SDA; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The employees of AIR & Doodarshan, who have all India transfer liability, on their posting to AIR/DD stations or offices located in N.E.Region including Assam, are being paid Special Duty Allowance in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Ministry of Finance's O.M. No. 11(3)95-E-II(B) dated 12.1.1996. As per these orders, employees who belong to local areas, are not being paid Special Duty Allowance, as they are not eligible for the same.

(c) and (d) Non-payment of Special Duty Allowance (SDA) to employees belonging to local areas of N.E. Region is not discriminatory. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in its judgement delivered on 20.9.1994 in Civil Appeal No. 3251 has held that grant of SDA only to the officers transferred from outside the N.E. Region to this region is not violative of the provisions contained in Article 14 of the Constitution.